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the difficulties of the great city for the untrained bread-winner, but his present attempt to give this knowledge literary form is a pretty flat failure.

**Williams, James M.** *An American Town.* Pp. 251. New York: Published by the author, 1906.

The author, formerly a Fellow in Sociology in Columbia University, has in connection with his graduate work, made this sociological study of a small town of rural New York. In order to get the information he spent some years living in the town, and the result is a very interesting volume of considerable value. The author has given us a little bit of the social history of the town and the community, dividing it into two periods—from the settlement to 1875 and from 1875 on. This date being taken because of certain economic changes which mark the second period from the first. In method the author has closely followed Professor Giddings. Those who are familiar with the terminology of the latter will have no difficulty, but the reader unacquainted with the work of Professor Giddings will occasionally stumble upon technical expressions which are more or less puzzling. The volume here presented is but a part of the larger work the author is preparing. What we need, as the author suggests, is more field work in sociology. This volume is valuable because it is an illustration of careful, conscientious field work, even if occasionally the conclusions seem unwarranted. Further volumes will be awaited with interest.

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REVIEWS.

**Avery, Elroy McKendree.** *A History of the United States and Its People.* In fifteen volumes. Vol II. Pp. xxxviii, 458. Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Co., 1905.

The second volume of Mr. Avery's ambitious work treats of the period 1600 to 1660, the period of Champlain's enterprises in New France, of the foundation of Virginia, New England, New Netherlands, and New Sweden, and of the establishment and early activities of the New England Confederation. The strong feature of this volume, as of its predecessor, is—aside from the work of the publishers—the accuracy and detail of the author's narrative. Certain of its limitations are also among those of the earlier volumes and seem, therefore, likely to characterize the entire work. They are: First, the author's lack of assured perspective and his consequent inability to impart emphasis, selection, and organization to his work; secondly, his attempts to vary the monotony inevitable in a narrative devoid of the above mentioned qualities by constant recourse to the phraseology of others or to awkward trivialities; and, thirdly, his disposition to abdicate to others the historian's essential function of passing judgment, without at the same time distinguishing at all between the purely personal opinions of those whom he quotes and their documented verdicts.

Nothing could be more inconsequential than such a practice, as a few specimens will show. On page 259 we are informed that one of Printz's letters to Winthrop "is described by Gregory B. Keen as more amiable than

truthful." On page 268 we learn that "Irving B. Richman tells us that in that presence [that of the Massachusetts theocracy, apparently] Williams stood 'perplexed, indignant, weapon drawn, challenging it by every instinct of his nature and at every point.'" On page 284 we are informed that "Mr. Richman tells us that it was a time of Tom, Dick and Harry turned preacher." On page 290 we are told, again on the weighty authority of Mr. Richman, that "henceforth it was hot times at Shawomet." Such quotations might be multiplied almost indefinitely. On page 269 there are three absolutely useless citations of other writers, and on the next page there are two. Is it necessary to say that modern historians have long since rejected such mediæval practices? When a historian pronounces a verdict it must be upon his own responsibility; this is the fundamental condition of progress. Of course Mr. Avery's obvious purpose in some cases is merely to levy requisitions upon another's phraseology. The effect in most cases is not happy.

One of the shortcomings of the earlier volume was its neglect of the transatlantic background of American beginnings. In the present volume a commendable effort has been made to remedy this deficiency. Thus Chapter II bears the title "The Evolution of a Colonial System," and Chapter V treats of the "Growth of Separatism in England." These turn out to be, however, the two weakest chapters in the book. The former is hardly more than a chronological account of the change of designation of the various colonial commissions of the British executive. Scant mention is made of the point of view from which the British Government viewed its colonies, and none of how this was affected by political changes in Great Britain. Also an antiquated classification of the colonies is made. In the chapter on Separatism, which is more accurately an account of the development of Non-conformity, an opportunity to display the underlying ideas of Puritanism as they emerge in gradual development is entirely thrown away, much to the diminution of the author's comprehension of Puritanism in Massachusetts. In this same connection, one notable omission of the present volume, is that of any discussion of the trading company in general, though the part played by this type of commercial organization in furthering the settlement of Jamestown directly and in masking the Puritan enterprise in Massachusetts would seem to call for some explanation, or at least mention, of its evident vogue in these years.

In his "Introduction," Mr. Avery contends that the unity of our colonial history should compel "its study by what Mr. Sloane well describes as 'transverse sections rather than by longitudinal fibers.'" It is unfortunate that in two or three cases Mr. Avery has seen fit to depart from this principle. One of these is furnished by Chapter II, already mentioned. An account of the machinery that the British Government elaborated in the course of the seventeenth century to deal with its colonies, even if it were eventually to take the form of an isolated monograph, is certainly out of place while Jamestown is still waiting to be founded. By dividing the subject matter of Chapters XIII, XVI and XVII into three parallel narratives, entitled respectively, "Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson," "Massachusetts Troubles,"

and the "Puritan and the Heretic," the author doubtless makes his task easier, but he also misses many of the interactions of event which it should be the historian's keenest pleasure to trace, and he strips the situation which he chooses thus to portray in artificial sections, of its greatest significance, its entity.

A few minor criticisms may be briefly set down. There is a commendable diminution in the number of imaginative pictures and tag-ends of irrelevant verse, as compared with the previous volume. The account, on page 37, of the makeup of the Superior London Council is not complete. The statement on page 53 that "under this charter of 1609, modified by that of 1612, Virginia held until the formation of the federal constitution in 1788" (*sic*) is of doubtful import, but perfectly absurd under any interpretation. One would like to know upon what authority Mr. Avery states, in reference to the purchase of wives at Jamestown that, "of course, a debt thus incurred was looked upon as a debt of honor" (p. 71). Also with what warrant he declares (p. 94) that the Anglicans were fewer than the Puritans in Elizabeth's time, especially since the Puritans were themselves Anglican at that time. Also, what reason he has for asserting that the "Mayflower" compact was not a social compact. The account given of the so-called Navigation Act of 1660 (12 Chas. II, c. 18), on pages 191-93, furnishes proof positive that Mr. Avery is unacquainted with George L. Beer's *Commercial Policy of England Toward the American Colonies*, though he lists that work in his Bibliography for Chapter II. To characterize the Dutch West India Company, because of its instructions to Stuyvesant to confer public trust upon only those of Dutch nationality, as "the great precursor of the Know Nothing party of two centuries later" (pp. 238-9), sounds rather far-fetched, if not puerile. Of similar character is the account on page 310 of the "first naval engagement on the New England coast," and, on page 393, of "our first intimation of the American 'taxdodger'"—though these are possibly attempts at facetiousness. "Semi-social, half commercial" (p. 71) is bad English; so, also, is the strange medley of tenses in the last sentence but one on page 79; likewise the ablative absolute at the bottom of page 159. "Williams returned to Salem and much tribulation" (page 268) is, of course, a deliberate offense; "'twere well it were done quickly" (p. 350) is more venial.

The publishers have done their part in the construction of this volume even more satisfactorily than before. There is probably but one typographical error in the entire text of the narrative (p. 188, second paragraph, sixth line, the word "become"). The maps are extremely fine. Special mention should be accorded the general maps at the close of the narrative part of the volume. These are the work of Albert Cook Myers, and amount to an important contribution.

EDWARD S. CORWIN.

Princeton, November 14, 1906.

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Bailey, William B. *Modern Social Conditions*. Pp. 377. Price, \$3.00. New York: The Century Company, 1906.